



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

Martha H. Jones

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For Immediate Release

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High-resolution photos:

http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1001-FredericaVonStade_Gallery.htm

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Presents

**Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano
with special guest Kiri Te Kanawa, soprano
Brian Zeger, piano**

**on Sunday, October 4 at 3 pm
at Symphony Hall**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade in a Farewell Concert with special guest Kiri Te Kanawa** on Sunday, October 4 at 3pm at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. The media partner is WGBH 89.7.

The Opening Night of Celebrity Series 2009-2010 season will be celebrated with a festive cocktail reception and dinner in Higginson Hall following Frederica Von Stade's farewell recital. Proceeds from this benefit event support the Walter Pierce Annual Performance Fund and the Harris A. Berman Fund for After School Arts. For more information and to reserve tickets, please call Susannah Plaster at 617-598-3226 or email at sp@celebrityseries.org.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** has presented Frederica von Stade four times since her Celebrity Series debut in 1981. She most recently appeared in 2004 on a duo recital with bass Samuel Ramey and pianist Warren Jones. Dame Kiri Te Kanawa made her celebrity Series debut in 1984 and has appeared six times, including her own farewell recital in 2007.

Since her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1970, **Frederica von Stade** has sung nearly all her great roles with the company over the last four decades. In addition, Ms. von Stade has appeared with every leading American opera company, including San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Los Angeles Opera. Her career in Europe has been no less spectacular, with new productions mounted for her at Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, the Vienna State Opera, and the Paris Opera.

Her ability as a singing actress has allowed her to portray works in operetta and musical theater including the title role in *The Merry Widow* and Desirée Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Her repertoire is continually expanding with the works of contemporary composers. She created the role of Tina in Dallas Opera's world premiere production of Dominick Argento's *The Aspern Papers* (a work written for her) as well as the role of Madame de Merteuil in the Conrad Susa's *Dangerous Liaisons* and Mrs. Patrick De Rocher in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, both for San Francisco Opera. In addition to her numerous performances, Frederica von Stade has made over seventy recordings with every major label, including complete operas, aria albums, symphonic works, solo recital programs, and popular crossover albums.

(more)

A noted bel canto and French repertoire specialist, Frederica von Stade's is most beloved for her performances in Rossini's *La cenerentola* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Bellini's *La sonnambula*, Berlioz' *La damnation de Faust*, and, Debussy's *Pelleas et Melisande*. She has also excelled as an interpreter of the great trouser roles, from Strauss' Octavian to Mozart's Cherubino.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa made her debut as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1971. Dame Kiri Te Kanawa has since appeared in the leading opera houses of the world - Covent Garden, the Metropolitan, the Chicago Lyric Opera, Paris Opera, Sydney Opera House, the Vienna State Opera, La Scala, San Francisco, Munich and Cologne. Her lyric soprano heroines include the three major leading roles by Richard Strauss (Arabella, The Marschallin, and the Countess in *Capriccio*); Mozart's Fiordiligi, Donna Elvira, Pamina, and Countess Almaviva; Verdi's Violetta; Puccini's Tosca; and Tchaikovsky's Tatiana. Kiri has released a number of opera recordings including the complete *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Tosca*, *Arabella*, *La Traviata*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Carmen*, *Capriccio* and *La Bohème*. Outside the operatic field, her recordings are equally extensive and include: Mozart concert arias; the Strauss *Four Last Songs*; Berlioz's *Nuits d'été*; Brahms' *German Requiem*; Handel's *Messiah*, and the Beethoven 9th and Mahler 4th Symphonies. Kiri has also recorded *Blue Skies*, an album of American popular songs with Nelson Riddle; followed by albums of Gershwin, Porter and Kern songs and three classics of the light music stage: *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, and Bernstein's only recording of *West Side Story*.

Pianist **Brian Zeger** has collaborated with some of the most prominent virtuosos, including violinist Itzhak Perlman, flutist James Galway, actress Claire Bloom, and numerous song recitalists including Marilyn Horne, Kathleen Battle, Arleen Auger, Frederica von Stade, Samuel Ramey, Susan Graham, Bryn Terfel, Maria Bayo, René Pape, Thomas Hampson and Joyce DiDonato. Zeger also enjoys an active career as a chamber musician. From 1993-2000 he was artistic director of the Cape and Islands Chamber Music Festival, headquartered on Cape Cod and now in its 29th season, where his performances included collaborations with the Borromeo and Brentano Quartets as well as with Bernard Greenhouse, Glenn Dicterow, Eugene Drucker and Paula Robison. He has been a regular guest at many other summer festivals including Aspen, Ravinia, Caramoor, Aldeburgh, and Santa Fe, and collaborates regularly with An die Musik and the New York Philharmonic Chamber Ensembles. He has also made concerto appearances with the Boston Pops.

Brian Zeger currently serves as Artistic Director of the Vocal Arts Department at The Juilliard School and as the director of the vocal program at the Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival. He is also Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Development Program in partnership with The Juilliard School.

The program for Frederica Von Stade's October 4 Farewell recital will include works by Mozart, Berlioz, Poulenc, Canteloube, Britten, Copland, Thomas, Offenbach.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets are priced at \$87, \$67, \$52, \$38, and \$33, and are available by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., online at www.celebrityseries.org, or at the Symphony Hall box office, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 71st season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp

Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

The Celebrity Series receives major annual support from The Little Family Foundation; Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation; The Boston Foundation; Linde Family Foundation; Tufts Health Plan; Foley & Lardner LLP; Massachusetts Cultural Council; Emerson College; D.L. Saunders Companies & Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC; Bain Capital Children's Charity; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Charlesbank Capital Partners LLC; The Collings Foundation; DeMoulas Foundation; JPMorgan Chase; Parametric Technology Corporation; Peabody Foundation; P&G Gillette; Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation; Red Sox Foundation; Talbots; Associated Grant Makers Summer Fund; AVFX; Steve and Joan Belkin Foundation; Bessie Pappas Charitable Foundation; Citizens Bank; Clipper Ship Foundation; Comcast; Deloitte; John Hancock Financial Services; Matrix1, Inc.; New England Foundation for the Arts; Paul L. King; Jann E. Leeming & Arthur D. Little; Charles O. Wood III & Miriam Wood; Amy & Joshua Boger; Caroline & Bob Collings; Cerise & Charles Jacobs; Paul F. & Barbara Levy; Mrs. Nancy Richmond Winsten & Dr. Joseph Winsten; Harris A. Berman & Ruth E. Nemzoff; Kathleen & Steven Haley; Eleanor & Fank Pao; Susan Pravda & Gabor Garai; Margaret Eagle & Eli Rapoport; Cynthia & John Reed; Dorothy & Stephen Weber.

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